

Montana State University

Organization Description

Led by the Montana Office of Rural Health, at Montana State University, fifteen different faith and health entities have come together to form the Montana Faith-Health Cooperative. Their mission is to foster and promote productive faith-health partnerships across Montana.

Project Description

The primary purpose is to enhance and expand the role of FBO/CBOs in providing social services' to the underserved and most needy populations across Montana. The cooperative also hopes this demonstration project can serve as a model for other rural western states.

Geographic Scope of Project

State of Montana.

Partnering Organizations

The Montana Faith-Health Cooperative includes 15 diverse faith-health entities:

- Blue Cross and Blue Shield of MT
- Lutheran Social Services of MT
- MT Mental Health Association
- MT American Indian Community
- MT Association of Churches
- MT Association of Jewish Communities
- MT Department of Public Health and Human Services
- MT Hospital Association
- MT Office of Rural Health
- MT Rural Clergy
- Northern Rockies Institute of Theology
- Parish Nurse Center, Carroll College
- St. John's Lutheran Ministries
- St. Vincent Healthcare
- T.E.A.M. Mentoring, Inc.

Sub-Awards

In year one, MFHC distributed \$137,382 in sub-awards to 22 FBOs and CBOs. The purpose of the sub-awards is to assist small grassroots FBOs and CBOs building capacity and enhancing their ability to provide health and social services to the under-served and most needy in Montana.

Project Objectives

1. To build capacity and the knowledge base among FBO/CBOs of the faith-health movement across Montana.
2. To determine the extent of pre-award involvement of FBO/CBOs in delivery of social services' for baseline data.
3. To determine range of needs across the state.
4. To provide TA, support, and sub-awards to FBO/CBOs.
5. To encourage and facilitate replication of appropriate models and best practices.
6. To identify and network with a comprehensive array of diverse organizations for achieving objectives.
7. To seek additional funding sources to sustain successful model practices.

Project Strategies

- Appoint regional contacts across the state to promote efforts, disseminate information and identify resources.
- Develop a statewide plan for disseminating information.
- Provide direct TA to help FBO/CBOs build capacity.

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- Link and network various agencies to improve services within the state.
- Facilitate replication of best practices and model programs in targeted underserved areas.
- Facilitate partnership building among organizations.

Grant Award Amount

\$614,555